

(a) whether any technical agreement has been signed between India and Ethiopia in Addis Ababa in month of June, 1969; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. An agreement on technical, Economic and Scientific Cooperation was concluded with the Government of Ethiopia on 2 June this year.

(b) The Agreement is aimed at the promoting technical, economic and Scientific cooperation which two Governments may deem useful to the economies of their respective countries. It provides for mutual exchange of technical training facilities, services of experts technical equipment and documentation, books, publications and other informative material and for mutual cooperation between scientific institutions and bodies of the two countries, Establishment of joint industrial enterprises and co-operation in technological development are also covered by the Agreement.

Setting up of Tea Plantations in Collaboration with Japan

1581. SHRI S. KUNDU : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Japanese team has visited or is likely to visit India to investigate the possibility of setting up tea plantations in the Himalayan regions including Kashmir; and

(b). if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Firing by Chinese Troops on Indian Soldiers

1582. SHRI VISHWA NATH PANDEY :

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :
SHRI M. H. GOWDA :
SHRI SRINIVAS MISRA :

SHRI SAMAR GUHA :
SHRI SURINDRANATH
DWIVEDY :
SHRI RAMACHANDRA
VEERAPPA :
SHRI YASHPAL SINGH :
SHRI P. C. ADICHAN :
SHRI N. R. DEOGHARE :
SHRI S. M. KRISHNA :
SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :
SHRI MOHAN SWARUP :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Chinese troops opened fire on Indian soldiers in the Lepulek area in Pathoragarh district of Uttar Pradesh well inside Indian Territory on the 12th July, 1969;

(b) if so, the details of the incident and the number of casualties suffered; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) to (c) . On 10th July 1969, when an Indian patrol was proceeding towards Lipulekh Pass on the U. P.-Tibet border, Chinese fired at our patrol from a direction east of the Pass, from their side of the international border. The Chinese fire was ineffective and was not returned. There were no casualties. There was no significant Chinese activity thereafter in the area. A close watch continues to be kept across our borders in the interests of safeguarding our territorial integrity.

Import of Mercury

1583. SHRI HIMATSINKA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the yearly imports of mercury at present and the countries from which it is being imported;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange spent on the imports of mercury during the years 1967, 1968 and 1969 so far; and

(c) the steps, if any, contemplated for developing the production of mercury within the country in the Fourth Five Year Plan ?